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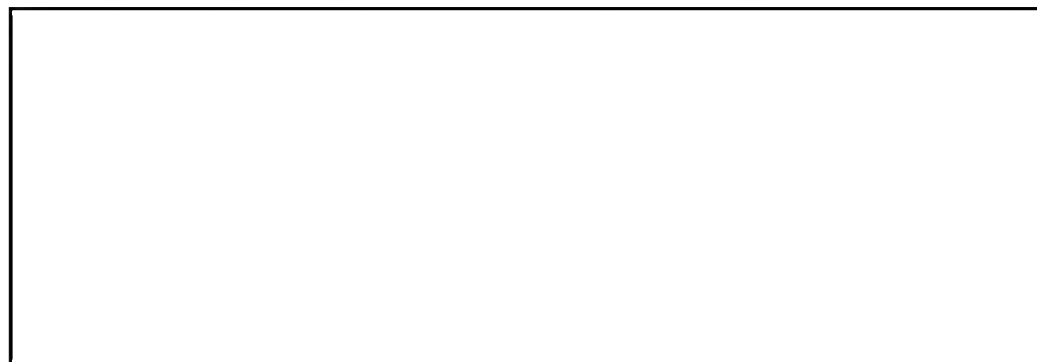
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YEMEN (SANA): President Iryani resigns.
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*YEMEN {SANA}: PRESIDENT ABD AR-RAHMAN IRYANI HAS SUBMITTED HIS RESIGNATION TO THE NORTH YEMENI LEGISLATURE.

THE ACTION BY THE 63-YEAR-OLD CHIEF EXECUTIVE COULD BE A TACTICAL MANEUVER. IRYANI, A POLITICAL MODERATE, MAY ANTICIPATE THAT HE WILL BE PREVAILED UPON TO REMAIN IN OFFICE IN ORDER TO AVERT A CRISIS OVER THE SELECTION OF A SUCCESSOR. IRYANI WOULD THEREBY PRESUMABLY BE IN A STRONGER POSITION TO DEAL WITH HIS POLITICAL OPPONENTS AT HOME--INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER HAJRI--AND WITH PRESSURES FROM ABROAD.

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[REDACTED] BELIEVES IRYANI'S RESIGNATION WAS PRECIPITATED BY THE OPEN INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC POLITICS BY THE SAUDI ARABIAN AMBASSADOR. IRYANI SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN CHARGING RECENTLY THAT THE SAUDIS ARE WORKING TO BRING DOWN THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT AND REPLACE IT WITH ONE THAT WILL SUPPORT A MORE AGGRESSIVE STANCE TOWARD THE LEFTIST REGIME IN YEMEN {ADEN}.

BACKERS OF PRESIDENT IRYANI IN THE CABINET HAVE TOLD THE US EMBASSY IN SANA THAT THEY FEAR SERIOUS DOMESTIC REPERCUSSIONS SHOULD IRYANI'S RESIGNATION BE ACCEPTED. IRYANI HAS THE REPUTATION OF BEING ABOUT THE ONLY YEMENI LEADER ON THE SCENE TODAY CAPABLE OF BRIDGING THE COUNTRY'S POLITICAL AND SECTARIAN DIVISIONS.

TO BECOME EFFECTIVE, THE PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION MUST BE ACCEPTED BY THE LEGISLATURE, WHICH BEGAN A TWO-MONTH RECESS SEVERAL DAYS AGO. EFFORTS ARE ALREADY UNDER WAY TO PERSUADE IRYANI--WHO HAS BEEN IN SYRIA SINCE EARLY AUGUST--TO REMAIN IN OFFICE.

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*Because of the shortage of time for preparation of this item, the analytic interpretation presented here has been produced by the Central Intelligence Agency without the participation of the Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

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